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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You store up goodness for those who have reverence for You. Give our lawmakers such reverential awe for Your purposes that they will receive the maximum You desire to give.

Lord, lavish them with Your protection and grace, blessing them as a watching nation and world look at the unfolding of Your prevailing providence. May our Senators strive to walk with integrity, staying on the path that You have chosen. Show them daily the wonders of Your unfailing love. Continue to be their help and shield as they worship and trust You.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3233

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for a second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3233) to establish the National Commission to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the United States Capitol Complex, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

JANUARY 6 COMMISSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, January 6 was only a few months ago. The memory is still fresh for all of us who experienced it firsthand.

A violent mob stormed the citadel of democracy, assaulted our Capitol po-

lice, and tried to halt the peaceful transfer of power. One hundred forty officers were injured. Five people would eventually lose their lives in connection to the attack.

I was within 20 feet of these hooligans.

It was one of the darkest moments in American democracy—the first time the Capitol was breached since the War of 1812, over 200 years ago. And yet, not 5 months later, many on the Republican side are trying to whitewash what happened.

Here is what one Senate Republican said about the attack last night: “By and large, it was peaceful protests . . . except for a few agitators,” he said. “Even calling this an insurrection” was wrong.

If there was ever a justification for creating a bipartisan Commission to study and report on the truth behind the attack of January 6, the comments of that Senator provide it.

Republicans in both Chambers are trying to rewrite history in fealty to or in fear of the former President, Donald Trump. Republicans in both Chambers are trying to erase the memory of January 6 and perpetuate the Big Lie. They are now likening the mob on January 6 to a group of “normal tourists.” Anyone who has seen the pictures of them breaking through the Capitol barriers knows that these weren’t normal tourists.

They are calling the mob, not the police, the victims of the attack. We have dead and injured police officers, and they are calling the mob the victims?

Only a week ago, the House Republicans fired Congresswoman CHENEY for the crime of merely repeating the truth about the election. It certainly wasn’t about policy. Congresswoman CHENEY voted with President Trump far more than the Member who replaced her. She was fired because she stood up to the Big Lie. It was a Thomas More moment here in 2020, and all of the shameful comments by Republicans

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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